REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending, of which claims 2, 5, 6, 13, 15, and 22-25 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 14, and 29 have been allowed. No new claims have been added. It is respectfully believed that no new matter has been introduced.

Applicant has amended the first sentence of page one of the specification to include a reference to International Application No. PCT/JP98/05962. Additionally, Applicant has filed herewith a Petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for an unintentionally delayed domestic priority claim, petitioning the Commissioner to accept the claim to domestic priority for the benefit of the prior-filed application.

Before turning to the cited art, a brief review of the Applicant's present invention is in order. The present invention provides an injection molding system comprising an injection molding apparatus, an air feeder for feeding at least air into the injection molding apparatus through a mouth arranged at an end of the injection molding apparatus opposite to the one end of the injection molding apparatus, a resin pellet feeding passage for feeding resin pellets into the injection molding apparatus, the resin pellet feeding passage feeding the pellets

into the injection molding apparatus at a location spaced apart from where the mouth feeds the at least air into the injection molding apparatus, a pellet feeding regulator, a pellet exhaust gas passage, and a decompressor.

The present invention provides a resin pellet feeding passage 40 feeding pellets at a location spaced apart from the mouth 64 (FIG. 1). The amendments to claims are supported by the application as originally filed. FIG. 1 shows feeding passage spaced apart from mouth.

Claims 2, 5-10, 13, and 15-28 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,187,229 (**Takayama**) in view of USP 4,632,564 (**Kopernicky**).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Takayama describes an injection molding process and an injection molding apparatus. FIG. 1 depicts heating cylinder 1, injection screw 2, retaining cylinder 3, and feed port 4.

Kopernicky describes an apparatus for removing moisture and volatiles

from molding particulate plastic material feed. FIG. 1 depicts screw 10, barrel 12, motor 13, opening 14, and heating bands 16.

Takayama and **Kopernicky**, alone or in combination, do not decsribe, teach, or suggest the following features of the present invention: a resin pellet feeding passage 40 feeding pellets at a location spaced apart from the mouth 64, as disclosed in the specification and drawings of the present invention.

With respect to claims 2, 5, 6, 13, and 15, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, **Takayama** and **Kopernicky**, alone or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the following features: "the resin pellet feeding passage feeding the pellets into the injection molding apparatus at a location spaced apart from where the mouth feeds the at least air into the injection molding apparatus", in combination with the other claimed features.

With respect to claims 22-25, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, **Takayama** and **Kopernicky**, alone or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the features therein relating to "feeding pellets into the injection molding apparatus at a location spaced apart from where a mouth feeds at least air into the injection molding apparatus", in combination with the other

claimed features.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, all pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition Under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)